



I'm not a robot!

List of character defects and their opposites aa

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The 12-step process was developed by Alcoholics Anonymous founder Bill Wilson in 1935 and is now employed by many rehabilitation groups around the world. By working through 12 detailed steps intended to help those with substance abuse issues to find acceptance, face reality and make amends, people are able to navigate a better path forward. The steps are progressive; practitioners stay with one step until satisfactory progress has been made and then move on to the next one. Moving through the steps requires deep reflection on both circumstances and self. This is especially true for step four, which reads, "Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves." To do this, it's important to reflect on character defects and shortcomings to identify the root causes of addiction and ways to improve. What Are Character Defects? The term character defect refers to any challenge in personal character that may affect your way of life and interactions with others in a less than ideal manner. Defects of character can range greatly; one Cleveland-based AA group identifies 20 different points of concern to assess in the context of deficiencies. These elements, like greed, can negatively influence how you lead your life, contributing to cycles of poor behavior. For example, acting in anger can result in unproductive responses to challenging life events, like using drugs to overcome feelings of rage toward others. Identifying evidence of defects in your own life can be clarifying, isolating where you've gone wrong and what kinds of actions are necessary to see personal improvements. What Are Shortcomings? In the context of the 12 steps of AA, both character defects and shortcomings are referenced throughout the program, leading some members to ponder the differences between them. According to the AA founder, Bill Wilson, a distinction wasn't intended; the varying word usage was merely a stylistic choice to avoid repetition. When moving through the steps, program members can think of these terms in the same context. List of Character Defects Character defects exist in numerous forms and can vary from one group to another in terms of what is assessed. In general, common character defects include: Greed Anger Fear Cowardice Egotism Guilt Dishonesty Impatience Hate Pride Denial Jealousy Laziness Insincerity Negative or immoral thinking Intolerance For some people, many of these defects apply. For others, only a select number are relevant. Do I Have Defects? Identifying flaws in your thoughts and behaviors is often hard to do. It's easy to justify your actions, for example, you were greedy because you thought you needed goods or services more than other people, but participating in AA involves true introspection that goes beyond rationalizing individual choices. In reality, we all have defects. No one is perfect, regardless of a history of — or lack of — substance abuse. Everyone has areas in which they can improve, from being jealous of a coworker who got a promotion to being angry at a friend who makes more money. Part of being successful in AA involves not making excuses for character defects and, instead, using an introspective moral inventory to make positive changes. Discovering the kind of shortcomings you're facing and how they relate to your addiction is an important part of recovery. That's why step four specifically states taking a "fearless inventory." It's hard to be critical of yourself in an honest way, but pursuing a personal inventory without fear is imperative to achieving this. What Are My Character Defects? You know you have personality defects, but how do you perform the kind of searching and fearless moral inventory required to accomplish step four? Create a List of Defects Understanding what constitutes a character defect is an important part of taking a personal inventory. Using the list above, a list provided by an AA group or a personal list drawn up based on life experiences and known personality traits is a great way to start this process. Those working through step four can go item by item to develop a personal inventory. Don't limit yourself to character defects that may seem personal only to you or that you're already aware of. Instead, be as inclusive as possible. Without further introspection, you may not even see the other defects that have affected you and your substance use disorder. Develop Questions Taking a concept, like greed, and interpreting it in the context of your own personality isn't as simple as it sounds. To ensure this exercise is as effective as possible, draw up some questions that make it easier to conceptualize how certain character defects play into your past and current behaviors. Some examples include: How does a certain character defect manifest? How is behavior affected by a certain character defect? What are the consequences of a certain character defect? In what ways can a certain character defect affect the use of drugs or alcohol? How can a certain character defect stand in the way of a healthy recovery? Have I been affected by this character defect? Identify Scenarios Once you've isolated a list of questions relevant to your summary of character defects, it's time to put them to use. Go through each shortcoming one by one and give answers to each question. These can be yes or no answers or, for some questions, longer and more involved responses.

The important part of this exercise is to evaluate honestly how each character defect can play a role in facilitating addiction or poor behavior and whether you've displayed any of these challenging traits. Next Steps The 12-step program in AA and other addiction treatment programs is intended to guide those working through addiction little by little. The fourth step only truly addresses identifying character defects rather than overcomes them; this is managed in later steps. As such, identifying these shortcomings honestly and candidly is vitally important for later because making healthy and productive changes is a big part of the overall goals of Alcoholics Anonymous. What If You Need Help? The above questions can help begin identifying the harder to detect character flaws that may have led to addiction. Understanding these flaws is critical to your recovery. If you find yourself struggling with addiction or need to identify your flaws and improve your behavior, don't hesitate to seek help. Contact FHE Health by calling to talk with one of our compassionate counselors. Our team is standing by 24/7. Continue your path to health and become free of addiction by calling us today. Getting help is always an option for the nearly 25 million Americans living with an addiction to drugs and alcohol. Whether through a standard outpatient 12-step program or in a dedicated treatment facility, support is here when you need it most. The following is an excerpt from the pamphlet "Going Through The Steps - A.A. Sponsorship Pamphlet" by Clarence Snyder 1944In Step 4, we're asked to take a searching and fearless moral inventory. We must find out what we've got, what we need to get rid of, and what we need to acquire. There are 20 character defects to ask about — the individual wrongs are not necessary to go over, just the defects that caused them.

Now find that we cannot get away with arrogance. If we are not humble, we are humiliated. If we are greedy, we find that we are never satisfied. Before taking Steps Four and Five we could indulge in fear, anger, dishonesty or self-pity. Now indulgence in these character defects clouds our ability to think logically. Selfishness becomes an intolerable, destructive chain that ties us to our bad habits. Our defects drain us of all our time and energy.

We examine the Fourth Step inventory and get a good look at what these defects are doing to our lives. We begin to long for freedom from these defects. We pray or otherwise become willing, ready and able to let God remove these destructive traits. We need a personality change, if we are to stay clean. We want to change.

We should approach old defects with an open mind. We are aware of them and yet we still make the same mistakes and are

Going over the questions, you ask that the person be honest and admit his defects to himself, to you, and to God (where two or more are gathered in His name, there shall He be.) By admitting, the person also takes Step 5. The inventory is of our defects, not our incidents. Here are the defects of character: Resentment, Anger, Fear, Cowardice, Self pity, Self justification, Self importance, Egotism, Self condemnation, Guilt, Lying, Evasiveness, Dishonesty, Impatience, Hate, False pride, Phoniness, Denial, Jealousy, Envy, Laziness, Procrastination, Insincerity, Negative Thinking, Immoral thinking, Perfectionism, Intolerance, Criticizing, Loose Talk, Gossip, Greed. AA's are often asked "What is the difference between 'defects of character' in Step Six and 'shortcomings' in Step Seven?" According to G.S.O.'s archives Bill W. commented about his use of "Defects of Character" and "Shortcomings" interchangeably in the Steps in a personal letter he wrote dated March 7, 1963. Thanks for your inquiry, requesting to know the difference between "defects of character" and "shortcomings" — as those words appear in the Steps. Actually I don't remember any particular significance in these phrases. In my mind, the meaning is identical: I guess I just used two ways of expression, rather than to repeat myself. It's just as simple as that. In another letter, dated November 16, 1965, Bill again responded to a similar inquiry. His letter read, in part: When these Steps were being done, I didn't want to repeat the phrase 'character defects' twice in succession. Therefore in Step Seven, I substituted 'shortcomings', thereby equating 'shortcomings' with 'defects.' When reading most people do equate that way and there seems to be no difficulty. I used them as though they both meant exactly the same thing — which they appear to many people.

anger	affection
abandoned	adored, cherished
abused	valued, appreciated, cared for, tenderness
aggression	humility, gentleness
awful	wonder
bitter	enthusiasm, sweetness
boredom	involvement, interest, curiosity
closed	open, available
confusion	clarity
crazy, demented	sanity, stability
darkness	light, truth
depressed	happiness, loving life, in love with life
devastated	renewal, restored, complete
dirty, filthy	cleanliness, purity
disdain contempt	admiration, approval
disgust	delight
revulsion	appreciation
empty	fullness, fulfillment
fear	hope, love
frustration	contentment
giving up	endurance, stamina
guilt	innocence
hate, despise	love, in love
hopeless	hope, willing to go on
lies	truth
loneliness	community, belonging, partnership
lost	belonging, at home, being discovered
nervous	boldness, courage
numb	alive, new life
obsessed	freedom
pessimism	optimism
pointless	meaningfulness
poverty	wealth, abundance
putrid	sweet perfume, delight
rage	peace, ease, blessedness, vision
rejection	welcome, support, acceptance
resentment	ways to make amends
repulsion	attraction
sadness	happiness
shame	pride, purity, innocence
shyness	curiosity, boldness
spiteful	kindness, consideration
stuck	movement, flow
suspicion	true
terror	peace, serenity, love
torn apart	renewed, restored
ugly	beauty, grace
unfulfilled	satisfaction, fulfillment
unhealthy	health, wellbeing
useless	useful, good, blessed
vengeful	friendliness, goodwill, kindness
weakness	strength, back bone
worthless	worthiness, admiration, appreciation